

KRILOV POLAND

Sucher Fleiss-Chia Fayge Klein  
||

ASTILLA POLAND

Hershel Bermi----Sheindel  
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4 brothers Tzivia Fleiss-Kuni Bermi~~~Bess-Harry~~ Hannah-Nathan  
Bosha 6 bros Berger Hartstein  
3 sisters ||  
& sisters ||

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Manuel---Sydine Sam---Clair Sarah--Robert  
HARTSTEIN FAMILY THE HARTSTEINS OF BILROTKA RUSSIA IN AMERICA

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TOP ROW NATHAN CHANNAH LOU FRONT ROW: MORRIS ROSE



Morris Hartstein was in the Russian army for 6 years. When his tour of duty was almost over the town rabbi's son was about to be drafted. Morris served in his place, and spent another 6 years as a soldier. While in the army he was taught how to make clocks. He was married to Rose and he had 5 children. In 1905 The Russo Japanese war started. The Russian army asked Morris to come back. Rose told him to go to America. He "ganvat d Graenitz", stole across the border, traveled to America, and settled in St. Louis where he had a cousin named Deena. He began repairing clocks, and in five years had accumulated enough money to bring his family over.

Japan issued a [declaration of war](#) on [8 February 1904](#). However, three hours before Japan's

declaration of war was received by the Russian Government, the [Japanese Imperial Navy](#) attacked the [Russian Far East Fleet](#) at Port Arthur. Tsar [Nicholas II](#) was stunned by news of the attack. He could not believe that Japan could initiate a warlike act without a formal declaration of war, having been assured by his ministers that the Japanese would not fight. Russia declared war on Japan eight days later.



5 years after Nathan came to America, Rose and five children worked their way across Europe. It took a year, and during the year one child died. In France someone offered money for the passage if Rose would leave Nathan with their family, and she refused. Rose and 4 children sailed from Belgium and landed at Ellis Island. The children were Yidel; Nathan, Hanah, and Lou. When the Americans inspected the immigrants they discovered Yidel had Trachoma, an eye infection. He would have to go back.

*Health check Ellis Island*

Then we'll all go back, Rose said.

Yidel, who was 13 years old, insisted that they stay. He would go back to Belgium and would be ok. He returned to Belgium and was met by HIAS, the Hebrew aid association. Apparently he later married the daughter of a diamond merchant and went into the diamond business. By mail he made contact with his family. He had five children, was



apparently a successful merchant, and was trapped in Belgium when the Nazis invaded.

Years later Yidel's nephew, Jack Hartstein, a St. Louis eye surgeon spoke with a Jewish woman from Canada who said she knew some Hartsteins in Belgium. 6 months later she wrote Jack, and it turned out that the Belgium Hartsteins were Yidel's children. Yidel, his wife, and 2 children were killed by the Nazis. A son, Sam, went to England on a kinder transport. And 2 daughters, Berta and Flora, were hidden by gentiles during the war and survived.

HANNAH AND NATHAN

In St. Louis years later Hershel Bermi and Morris made a match. Morris' son Nathan married Hershel's daughter Hannah. (They had 5 children: Jack, Shirley, Herbie, Allen, and Sadie.) Jack recalls his mother as a quiet woman. Nathan was outgoing, warm and worked hard.



BESS AND MARVIN

ASTILLA POLAND  
Hershel Bermi----Sheindel  
Morris Hartstein--Rose

Tziviva Fleiss-Kuni Bermi~~~Bess Bermi-Harry Berger~~~Hannah Bermi-Nathan Hartstein  
SYD SAM JANE Marvin Berger 5 Hartsteins

KUNI BERMI



BESS



CHANAH



HERSHEL  
BERMI  
FATHER



MORRIS AND HANNA'S SON, JACK learned watch making as an apprentice in St.



Louis. He worked with his father as a watchmaker. People kept coming in wanting their eyes checked. In those days watchmakers also did eye exams. Between 1943 and 1945 he was in the Navy, went to Radar school, and was stationed in upper North or South Dakota. After the military he went to dental school for a year, but withdrew. It was not for him. Then he went to school and became an optician. After three years of practice as an optician

he decided to go to medical school. He spent two years at the University of Missouri. At the time it was a 2 year school. He subsequently transferred to the University of Cincinnati and became an M.D. After his internship he became an ophthalmologist

#### JACK AND MERL HARTSTEIN 1959

In 1959, Merl met Jack Hartstein. At the time he was completing a fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital and she was teaching special education classes at the old Children's Hospital School in Baltimore. Within three weeks, they were engaged; four months later, they were married.

BY GLORIA S. ROSS, SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT November 27, 2013

About two years after opening a bookstore in Chesterfield, Merle Hartstein arrived one morning to find a swastika carved into the shop's front door. It was just before Rosh Hashanah. The same vandalism had occurred around the holiday the previous year, but this time the carvings were deeper.

Mrs. Hartstein viewed the damage with equanimity and declared she would again repair her door and that was all. She would not be moving.

"It could happen anywhere," she told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1988. "But it is a violation. I feel so powerless."

Mrs. Hartstein, who was diagnosed with breast cancer nine years ago, died Tuesday (Nov. 26) at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield of an infection following chemotherapy. She was 77 and had most recently lived in University City.

Merle Hartstein could connect with anyone at any level, from buying just the right outfit for her pre-teen granddaughter, to selecting a book for one of her customers at a neighborhood book shop she once owned, to helping the dozens of families who came to a Jewish food pantry she ran out of a private home in University City. "It wasn't about her," said Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, who worked with Mrs. Hartstein in her charity efforts. "It was about what she needed to get done." Mrs. Hartstein, of University City, died Tuesday (Nov. 26, 2013) of an infection about nine years after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She was 77. She was born in Philadelphia and raised in Baltimore, and through a mutual friend met her future husband, Dr. Jack Hartstein, who was nearing the end of an ophthalmology fellowship at Johns Hopkins

University in Baltimore and preparing to move back to St. Louis. “Oh, are you taking me with you?” she reportedly asked her future husband. Indeed, they got engaged within three weeks of meeting and married a few months later. Mrs. Hartstein worked as a special education teacher and then stayed home to raise the couple’s three children. When the children got older, she ran the Green Trails Book Shop at Ladue Road and Green Trails Drive in Chesterfield. The neighborhood bookstore carried new and used books, and operated for nearly 20 years before it closed in 2005. When it closed, Mrs. Hartstein sent more than 100 children’s books to a friend in Baltimore for use in a reading program with inner-city kids there. When the students finished reading a book, they got to take it home and keep it. Mrs. Hartstein was active in the Orthodox Jewish community, and for the past five years ran Tomchei Shabbos, a food pantry stocked with kosher food that helps about 40 families.

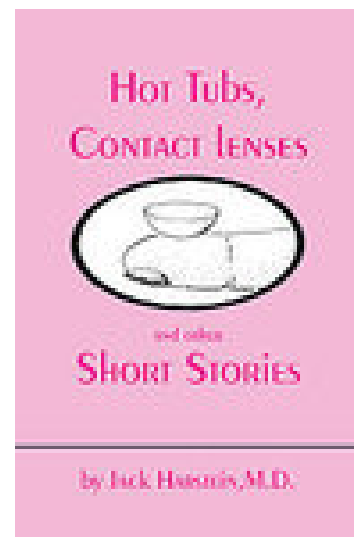
She set up a discreet distribution system that involve 40 families picking up food at designated times and picking up packages with designated codes and colors. “Maintaining their self-dignity was just as important to her as putting bread on the table,” Greenblatt said. She also ran a group who raised money for Orthodox Jewish families who couldn’t afford a wedding and an annual food drive for needy families during Passover. People always seemed to know they could call her for help and advice, family members said. “She’s like a force,” said her son, Larry Hartstein of New York. He said friends have flown in from all over the country to see his mother in the hospital the last few weeks. “They’re such good friends, they’re not acquaintances. I’m personally amazed by how one person is so beloved. And all these rabbis are coming in and saying, ‘We need you. You gotta get better.’”



**BOOK REVIEW OF A BOOK JACK HARTSTEIN  
WROTE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THEN RE  
WROTE A SECOND EDITION**

Questions and Answers on Contact Lens  
Practice, by Jack Hartstein, O.D., M.D.,  
St. Louis, 1968, The C. V. Mosby Company,  
199 pages, illustrated, \$10.75.

Dr. Hartstein is a practicing clinical ophthalmologist  
and teacher with a yen for contact lenses;  
he has continued to expand his interest in these  
devices which began when he was an optometry  
student, grew during his years of eye residency,



and blossomed during his many years of practice.

On many previous occasions he has presented scientific papers and case reports with new information on contact lens practice and problems, both at meetings and in the ophthalmic literature. In his new book, he has compiled a tremendous amount of practical information on lens fitting, instrumentation, and problem analysis: this is presented in a "question-and-answer-type" format, which he feels provides the essential information in a concise and readily available manner. Normally, I am very much opposed to the printed "question and answer" approach to the teaching of any subject. The main problem is that it makes it difficult to present a coherent story on any subject; one quickly skips from one subject to the next without any real transition. Each new "question," while falling into the *general* category of the heading of the chapter, sometimes moves too abruptly from the preceding one and, therefore, the coverage does not tend to be as complete as one might find in other, more flowing accounts. The Index, which should always be relatively complete, is even more important in the "question answer" text. It must be extremely well detailed and carefully compiled to make the approach at all useful. Both these *a priori* general objections to style are well handled by Dr. Hartstein. Also, he has done a fine job in boiling down many conflicting points of view of the management techniques of the contact lens patient into a readily digestible form.

There is definitely a strong practical leaning to the material given. Dr. Hartstein hits "the nail squarely on the head" while deleting much extraneous material. He points directly at the heart of the specific information necessary to go about understanding and fitting these prosthetic devices. While no book can possibly replace actual, practical experience, it can certainly go a long way toward making the gaining of practical experience both palatable and efficient. This book on contact lens practice admirably fulfills these goals. Dr. Bernard Becker's Introduction reflects upon the increased awareness and interest on the part of ophthalmologists who have (as much through political necessity as through interest) become engaged in personally fitting or supervising the fitting of the contact lens patient. More and more residency training programs about the country recognize the need for medical training in the management of such patients.

Even though each of the chapters is well illustrated and generally quite good, I was particularly intrigued by the last chapter on "Cosmetics and Contact Lenses," although only two pages long. Among many points, the author recommends that many of the currently available soaps for washing the hands prior to inserting contact lenses should not be used if they contain cold creams or deodorants; they tend to leave a film on the hands that is easily transferred to the lens and may result in smudging, irritation, or interference with proper wetting. Also, patients should be advised against wearing lenses in the beauty shop (I suppose this most likely refers more to the female of the species) since sitting under a hot-air dryer results in drying of the tears and the lenses (as well as the hair) and may result in a corneal abrasion from a lack of lubrication—logical, and interesting. Appendixes to the text are 6 tables which are quite valuable to any contact lens practitioner. There is no doubt that anyone who fits contact

lenses is bound to pick up a number of "pearls" from this text and a large amount of more general practical information to aid him in the management of the patient attracted to the merits of the contact lens. I can certainly heartily recommend this book.



Dr. Jack Hartstein is a clinical professor of ophthalmology and Medical Director of the Contact Lens Clinic at Barnes Hospital at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. He is former Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at St. Luke's Hospital. He has authored three text books on contact lenses for eye care professionals as well as member of the AMA, American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmology. Dr. Hartstein is the former Editor-in Chief (for 10 years) of the Contact and Intraocular Lens Medical Journal.

The early chapters discuss several of the harms encountered by people who wear contact lenses.

Chapter one: a man who wore his contact lenses into the hot tub developed a tiny corneal ulcer caused by a microscopic protozoa that is sometimes found in hot tubs and often not destroyed by chlorine.

Chapter two emphasizes the fact that long term use of hard contact lenses can cause the cornea to warp—astigmatism.

Chapter 11 is detailed history of contact lenses. It ends with soft lenses and the story of soft contact lenses.

They were created in the kitchen of a Prague chemist. His name was Otto Wichterle, and as a Czech dissident he was jailed by the Nazis in 1942. Sixteen years later, he criticized the country's Communist government and lost his university job. After he was fired, Wichterle worked on the kitchen table of his Prague apartment and used a phonograph motor and an instrument made from a child's building kit (similar to an erector set). He produced four hydrogel contact lenses, and when he put them in his eyes, they were comfortable. In 1962, he patented his invention and produced an

additional 5,500 lenses. Ever a protester, Otto was expelled from the nation's chemistry institute in 1970 because he supported Czechoslovakia's attempt to become independent of Russia during the Prague Spring of 1968.

When the Cold War ended, Otto resumed his scientific activities. At one point, he met and learned to trust an American optometrist named Robert Morrison. When he was harassed by patent attorneys, Otto asked Morrison to come to Prague and said, "Robert, I have decided that I must give patent rights to the gel to someone who can use them in the Western Hemisphere and, perhaps, in some other areas as well." He wasn't interested in turning his devices into expensive commodities. He just wanted people to be able to benefit from them. Ultimately, the U.S. National Patent Development Corporation (NPDC) bought the American rights to the lenses from the Czechoslovak government for \$330,000. Then they sublicensed the patent to the Bausch & Lomb Corporation, and paid Wichterle less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the money the Czech government received. According to his grandson, he "never regretted not making more money from his invention. He led a comfortable life and he enjoyed traveling and visiting scientists and scholars in many parts of the world." His lenses are currently produced by several companies and they will bring in revenues of \$12 billion by 2024.

An avid motorcyclist, Dr. Jack Hartstein drove a V-Star Yamaha touring motorcycle. He's rode for 35 years ---often with a group known as "Jack's Pack," a group of 52 people who got together early on Sunday mornings to go for a motorcycle ride. On any given Sunday, 20 to 25 people would show up to follow a leader who guided them on a secret route. The group included doctors, lawyers, judges, policemen, several women and a few couples. One member was paraplegic and rode a specially designed and built motorcycle that allowed him to ride the motorcycle while in his wheelchair.





Dr. Hartstein rode his motorcycle because he liked being outdoors. “When you ride in a car, it’s like you’re watching the world outside on TV,” he says. “On a bike, you become a part of

nature and can see, feel, hear and smell it directly.” For Dr. Hartstein, riding was primarily a weekend hobby, but one he enjoyed almost year-round. “As long as it’s above 40 degrees and not raining, I’ll ride,” he says. “It’s a tremendous thrill.” Hartstein even had special rain gear to keep him dry if he gets caught in a cloudburst, and an electric vest, socks and gloves that plug into the motorcycle to keep him warm. BMW even sells a bike with heated handlebars.

Although Hartstein admits that “being a motorcyclist is among the seven most dangerous occupations,” he won’t stop. Speaking of time, Hartstein has another hobby that keeps him occupied when the weather isn’t conducive to motorcycling. “I love to tinker with broken watches,” he says. “It involves a lot of fine work—sort of like repairing eyes.”

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Dedication: PDF Only  
Jack Hartstein Journal Pioneer Farris, R Linsy MD

## Dedication

### Jack Hartstein Journal Pioneer

This inaugural issue of *The CLAO Journal* under its new name and format is dedicated to Jack Hartstein, MD, Editor-in-Chief of its forerunner, *The Contact and Intraocular Lens Medical Journal*, which was first published in 1975. The initial CLAO publication was begun in 1967 and was entitled *The Contact Lens Medical Bulletin*, with Whitney Sampson, MD, as Editor-in-Chief.

Dr. Hartstein brought *The Contact and Intraocular Lens Medical Journal* into existence with regular quarterly publication, noting that the *Journal* "brings to our members the latest information in both the contact and intraocular lens fields. Ophthalmologists need to be kept up-to-date not only in the contact lens field—one of the most rapidly changing fields in ophthalmology—but also in the intraocular lens field. Physicians need to know the latest techniques and the possible complications."

Dr. Hartstein ensured that the *Journal* would contain this information by writing letters to every person involved with contact lenses and intraocular lenses to encourage their submission of articles and publication of their findings for their fellow CLAO members. This heavy volume of correspondence and keeping people interested in the *Journal* was maintained throughout his editorship. A heavy flow of manuscripts came across his desk and a publication schedule was maintained in spite of a busy surgical practice and authorship of several books related to contact lens practice. Last minute deadlines were met many times by phone calls by his able editorial assistant, Krim Williams, who also put the *Journal* to bed with the help of Ed Haagen of the Christian Board of Publication, St. Louis.

The new editorial staff would have a much more difficult job ahead of them were it not for the reputation of the *Journal* already established by Dr. Hartstein and his editorial staff. Our thanks are extended to them, and we dedicate this inaugural issue to them and the tradition which they have so well established.



R. Linsy Farris, MD  
Editor-in-Chief